

Group Center Case Study

Mary's Child Care Center is staffed with 10 full time and part time teachers. There are 4 rooms in the center: babies, toddlers, 2's and a preschool room. Mary started the center twenty-five years ago and can't believe how child care has changed.

As the director, Mary has completed the Administrator Credential. She is proud of her experienced staff. Mary has two teachers in the preschool classroom. One obtained six credits through the technical college before being hired. The other has most the credits toward her Associate degree in Early Care and Education. Mary made it a requirement for hiring that the teachers for the older children have some college credit since she felt that the older teachers needed to get the children ready for kindergarten. One teacher in the 2's room has 6 credits in Early Care and Education. Mary hired the two teachers for the baby room twenty years ago and they completed the infant class. Since she wanted teachers to provide "grandmotherly" care for the babies, she does not require additional college credit classes. All of the teachers take the required twenty-five hours of continuing education each year. Through these classes the teachers have realized the importance of learning centers in each classroom and the teachers have changed their rooms to include numerous areas.

The teachers post their weekly lesson plans outside of their doors. Depending upon the day, it is sometimes difficult to follow the plans, but Mary can see that the teachers are choosing age appropriate activities and progressively challenging the children.

Mary has been able to offer paid vacations, but cannot afford to offer health insurance to the staff. Teachers are paid when they attend continuing education classes. The staff is working to involve parents in the center. Mary and the teachers write a weekly newsletter and the majority of parents attend an annual parent/teacher conference. Twice a year there is a parent meeting that is attended by almost one fourth of the families. Mary is a member of the director's caucus in her county and through that involvement she has developed a handbook for staff, a handbook for families, a staff development plan and a written evaluation of each staff member. The director's caucus also introduced her to the Child Care Food Program and she is pleased that she became involved.

Family Child Care Case Study

Beth has been a family child care provider for the past two years. She enjoys the children and since this is her only source of income, she makes careful decisions. Beth takes advantage of community resources whenever possible. She participates in the child care food program.

Beth joined the ABC Support group that meets monthly. She attends about half of the meetings to get new ideas. Her priority is to obtain the Administrative Credential through the T.E.A.C.H.® WISCONSIN program. She has completed three of the classes and will complete the program in December.

The children play mainly in a large recreation room, but have access to the entire first floor, sometimes cooking in the kitchen, tumbling in the hall and snuggling on the couch. If the children can't play outside when the weather is bad, they can ride bikes in the garage. She always reads books before afternoon nap time. The children often take walks when the weather is nice and play in the park. She will also take them on field trips to the fire station or an event in town. She uses e-mail weekly to inform parent what has happened and the plans for the next week. She posts a plan of what she intends to do daily by the coat rack. The activities that Beth selects come from the activity books, ideas from other providers and quite a few of her own.

The parents support her by sharing their skills to interest children. One dad played his guitar for the children and a mom showed the children how to make tortillas. Twice a year she plans an activity after hours for the families. So far they have gone sledding and had hot chocolate in winter, had a picnic lunch and toured the Madison zoo on a Saturday, and had a fall party decorating pumpkins.